

We Claim:

1. A method for interactively providing a specialized learning curriculum over a computer network comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a client computer associated with a user, personal information relating to at least one user interest;

storing said personal information on at least one server computer associated with an education content provider;

generating a specialized learning curriculum based upon said personal information; and

displaying said specialized learning curriculum to said user.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said personal information includes community information generally describing the user.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said community information includes family status/age information.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

displaying a menu of descriptive community identifiers to the user; and

receiving a user selection of a particular descriptive community identifier.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said menu of descriptive community identifiers includes: a single and starting out identifier; a married without children identifier; a children at home identifier; a single and established identifier; an empty nester identifier; and a retired identifier.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein said personal information further includes interest topic information more specifically describing the interests of the user.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

displaying a plurality of selectable interest topic fields to the user; and

receiving user selections of at least one of said plurality of the interest topics included in said selectable interest topic fields.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said step of receiving user selections of at least one of said plurality of selectable interest topic fields further includes the step of limiting the selection of said selectable interest topic fields to a predetermined maximum number of interest topic fields.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said predetermined maximum number of selected interest topic fields is four.

10. The method of step 7, wherein the step of generating a specialized learning curriculum based upon said personal information further comprises the steps of:

determining, based upon said received community information and said selected interest topics, a preselected number of interest topics to utilize in generating said specialized learning curriculum;

identifying content elements categorized into said preselected number of interest topics;

selecting, for each of said preselected number of interest topics, a predetermined number of content elements for inclusion in said learning curriculum; and

displaying a listing of said preselected number of content elements.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said content elements include interactive courses and workshops, basic tutorials, articles, and interactive games, user activities and calculation tools.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said step of selecting a predetermined number of content elements includes selecting two course and workshop elements, one basic tutorial element, four article elements, and two game and tool elements.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

generating, based upon said community information, a priority listing of available interest topics wherein each available interest topic has a rating;

determining whether the user has selected the preselected number of interest topics;

if it is determined that the user has selected less than the preselected number of interest topics, selecting, from said priority listing, the highest rated interest topics not previously selected by the user so that a total number of interest topics selected is equal to the preselected number of interest topics; and

if it is determined that the user has selected more than the preselected number of interest topics, randomly selecting the preselected number of interest topics from the user selected interest topics.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the preselected number of interest topics is four.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to view a content element identified in said specialized learning curriculum;

displaying said content element to said user; and

receiving content evaluation information from the user relating to the displayed content element.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said content evaluation information includes a numerical rating.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether the user is logged in;

storing said received personal information to a user profile associated with the user if it is determined that said user is logged in; and

temporarily storing said received personal information only for a session if it is determined that said user is not logged in.

18. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- receiving a user request to register with said content provider;
  - receiving user information from said user, wherein said user information includes unique identification information;
  - generating a unique user profile including said user information; and
  - storing said unique user profile on said at least one server computer associated with said education content provider.
19. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- receiving a request to electronically mail a content element to a friend;
  - determining whether said content element is subject to electronic mailing;
  - if it is determined that said content element is subject to electronic mailing, receiving electronic mail information required to deliver said content element; and
  - electronically mailing said content element to the friend.
20. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- receiving a user request to view a bookstore;
  - generating a recommended book list based upon said received personal information; and
  - displaying said recommended book list to the user.
21. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- receiving a user request to view a newsroom;
  - retrieving news information from a news content provider;
  - displaying said news information to said user.
22. A system for providing a specialized learning curriculum over a computer network, comprising:

at least one server computer associated with an education content provider;  
and

a plurality of client computers associated with a plurality of users, said plurality of client computers being connected to said at least one server computer over the computer network,

wherein said at least one server computer incorporates at least one server application including one or more instructions for receiving personal information relating to at least one user interest, one or more instructions for storing said personal information on said at least one server computer, one or more instructions for generating a specialized learning curriculum based upon said personal information, and one or more instructions for displaying said specialized learning curriculum to said user.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein said personal information includes community information generally describing the user.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein said community information includes family status/age information.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein said at least one server application further includes:

one or more instructions for displaying a menu of descriptive community identifiers to the user; and

one or more instructions for receiving a user selection of a particular descriptive community identifier.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein said menu of descriptive community identifiers includes: a single and starting out identifier; a married without children identifier; a children at home identifier; a single and established identifier; an empty nester identifier; and a retired identifier.

27. The system of claim 23, wherein said personal information further includes interest topic information more specifically describing the interests of the user.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein said at least one server application further includes:

one or more instructions for displaying a plurality of selectable interest topic fields to the user; and

one or more instructions for receiving user selections of at least one of said plurality of the interest topics included in said selectable interest topic fields.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein said one or more instructions for receiving user selections of at least one of said plurality of selectable interest topic fields further includes one or more instructions for limiting the selection of said selectable interest topic fields to a predetermined maximum number of interest topic fields.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein said predetermined maximum number of selected interest topic fields is four.

31. The system of step 28, wherein the one or more instructions for generating a specialized learning curriculum based upon said personal information further comprises:

one or more instructions for determining, based upon said received community information and said selected interest topics, a preselected number of interest topics to utilize in generating said specialized learning curriculum;

one or more instructions for identifying content elements categorized into said preselected number of interest topics;

one or more instructions for selecting, for each of said preselected number of interest topics, a predetermined number of content elements for inclusion in said learning curriculum; and

one or more instructions for displaying a listing of said preselected number of content elements.

32. The system of claim 31, wherein said content elements include interactive courses and workshops, basic tutorials, articles, and interactive games, user activities and calculation tools.

33. The system of claim 32, wherein said one or more instructions for selecting a predetermined number of content elements includes one or more instructions for selecting two course and workshop elements, one basic tutorial element, four article elements, and two game and tool elements.

34. The system of claim 31, wherein said at least one server application further includes:

one or more instructions for generating, based upon said community information, a priority listing of available interest topics wherein each available interest topic has a rating;

one or more instructions for determining whether the user has selected the preselected number of interest topics;

one or more instructions for selecting, from said priority listing, the highest rated interest topics not previously selected by the user so that a total number of interest topics selected is equal to the preselected number of interest topics if it is determined that the user has selected less than the preselected number of interest topics; and

one or more instructions for randomly selecting the preselected number of interest topics from the user selected interest topics if it is determined that the user has selected more than the preselected number of interest topics.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein the preselected number of interest topics is four.

36. The system of claim 22, wherein said at least one server application further includes:

one or more instructions for receiving a request to view a content element identified in said specialized learning curriculum;

one or more instructions for displaying said content element to said user; and

one or more instructions for receiving content evaluation information from the user relating to the displayed content element.

37. The system of claim 36, wherein said content evaluation information includes a numerical rating.

38. The system of claim 22, wherein said at least one server application further includes:

one or more instructions for determining whether the user is logged in;

one or more instructions for storing said received personal information to a user profile associated with the user if it is determined that said user is logged in; and

one or more instructions for temporarily storing said received personal information only for a session if it is determined that said user is not logged in.

39. The system of claim 22, wherein said at least one server application further includes:

one or more instructions for receiving a user request to register with said content provider;

one or more instructions for receiving user information from said user, wherein said user information includes unique identification information;

one or more instructions for generating a unique user profile including said user information; and

one or more instructions for storing said unique user profile on said at least one server computer associated with said education content provider.

40. The system of claim 22, wherein said at least one server application further includes:

one or more instructions for receiving a request to electronically mail a content element to a friend;

one or more instructions for determining whether said content element is subject to electronic mailing;



one or more instructions for receiving electronic mail information required to deliver said content element if it is determined that said content element is subject to electronic mailing; and

one or more instructions for electronically mailing said content element to the friend.

41. The system of claim 22, wherein said at least one server application further includes:

one or more instructions for receiving a user request to view a bookstore;

one or more instructions for generating a recommended book list based upon said received personal information; and

one or more instructions for displaying said recommended book list to the user.

42. The system of claim 22, wherein said at least one server application further includes:

one or more instructions for receiving a user request to view a newsroom;

one or more instructions for retrieving news information from a news content provider; and

one or more instructions for displaying said news information to said user.